Mr. T. C. Iyyukutty.—Was this distance mentioned here the remotest boundary of the Akathiyoor village?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon.—It is the remotest distance and by the proper route, not the shortest route.

Mr. T. C. Iyyukutty.—Will not the school-going children find it inconvenient?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon.—It is a matter of opinion. It is only in terms of personal preference.

Mr. T. C. Iyyukutty.—Then cannot a school be opened at Akathiyoor?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon.—That is a further question for which I want notice.

Committee to enquire into the deterioration of the standard of English among pupils—Deliberations of.

3. **Mr. A. Narayana Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether the Committee appointed to go into the question of improving knowledge in English and the mother tongue if S. S. L. C. students has submitted its report;

(2) who are the members of the Committee:

(3) what are the terms of references to the committee;

(4) (a) has the committee submitted its report;

(b) what are the recommendations made;

(c) have the Government passed orders on the report; and

(d) if so, what?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon.—(1) No committee was appointed to go into the question of improving knowledge in English and the Mother-tongue of the S. S. L. C. students. A Committee to enquire into the deterioration of the standard of English among the pupils was, however, appointed and if the Member refers to this committee it has submitted its report.

(2) The members of this Committee are—

Messrs. 1. L. S. Subbaraya Ayyar, Inspector, Northern Division (now retired). President and Convener.

2 K. Rama Menon, Head-master, S. R. V. High School Ernakulam. Member.

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3. Mrs. Velayudha Menon, Head-mistress, G. H. Schopl, Ernakulam. Member.

4. Rev. Mother Mary, Mother-General, St. Teresa's Convent, Ernakulam. Member.

5. Mr. T. Kunjunni Menon, Head-master, Vivekodayam H. S., Trichur (now Inspector, Northern Division). Member.

6. Sreemathi V. K. Droupathi Amma, Head-mistress, V. G. School, Trichur. Member

7. Mr. C. C. Mathew, Head-master, H. S., Ollur (now Head-master, H. S., Kunnamkulam). Member.

8. Mr. S. V. Venkitachala Ayyar, Head-master, H. S., Nemmara (now Head-master, H. S., Irinjalakuda). Member.

(3) To suggest measures to arrest deterioration in the Standard of English among pupils.

(4) (a) Please see answer to (1).

(b) Please see the statement appended *(Vide Appendix I.)*.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government have approved of the recommendations with the reservations that (i) the starting of the Refresher course and (ii) the supply of reference books to schools, should wait for the time being.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—May I know whether the recommendations have been brought into operation?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon.—This committee reported only during the last educational year. They have been brought into operation during this educational year with the two reservations.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Have they been accepted by the Government?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon.—With the two reservations they have been accepted.

Elementary Education Improvement Committee—Report of.

4. **Mr. A. Narayana Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

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Travancore and British frontiers—Distance from the State Hospitals.

20. Mr. T. C. Iyyukutty.—Will the Government be pleased to state the shortest distance.—

(a) from the Mulanthuruthy hospital to the Travancore frontiers;

(b) from the Nemmara Hospital to the British frontiers?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—(a) One mile.

(b) Half a mile.

Mr. T. C. Iyyukutty.—Is there any record to show that the people of Travancore and British are benefited by these Hospitals?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—People from Travancore also come to these hospitals.

APPENDIX I.

(Question No. 3.)

Recommendations.

1. Only teachers with special aptitude for the teaching of English should be entrusted with English work.

2. There should be criticism lessons, model lessons and refresher courses for their benefit.

3. Oral composition should be given its due place in teaching.

4. Teaching of grammar by the Inductive method should be insisted on and that with the aid of a suitable text-book from Form I onward.

5. An elastic scheme of conversation lessons should be drawn up and followed in the Primary Department.

6. The method to the teaching of composition and the correcting of exercises as explained by the Madars S. S. L. C. Board should be followed.

7. The quantity prescribed for study from the text-books should be reduced and the selections should be such as are written in plain, suitable and idiomatic English.

8. The study of non-detailed books as it obtains at present may be given up and arrangements made for group-study of selected books and for the better use of the library thereby.

9. The nature of the examinations may be altered into one whereby the pupils' power of self-expression may be tested so that the teachers too may change their methods of teaching accordingly.

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10. A detailed syllabus for the teaching of English in the various classes and Forms may be drawn up.

Some other suggestions which are also useful and relevant to the issue are appended below.—

1. Hand-writing and spelling should be better attended to. Regular provision for teaching them should be made in the time-table for all the classes from class II to Form III for hand-writing and from class III to Form VI for spelling.

2. Pupils should be examined in hand-writing, dictation, reading and recitation also, and the marks obtained in these should be taken into account in deciding promotions.

3. There should be greater strictness in the matter of annual promotions so that there may be improvement in the standards of the classes.

4. Every pupil should be asked to provide himself with a copy of a good Dictionary.

5. Though verancularization may be regarded as having contributed to a slight extent to the deterioration in the standard of English, the chief reasons are to be sought for elsewhere, as has been explained before and vernacularization of non-language subjects need not, therefore, be given up on this account. On the other hand, it may, if adopted, set free a few of the periods now set apart for the non-language subjects, which may be utilised for English teaching.

6. All schools may be ordered to be equipped with a set of useful reference books as also useful magazines and a good lending library and reading room.

7. Translation from vernacular into English ought to be regularly taught in all the classes, as it will help pupils in expressing themselves clearly and correctly.

8. Literary unions and debating societies should be made an integral part of the school work.

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